

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3176

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2458

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, PINS, GR (SAGAN, GINETTA)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF GINETTA SAGAN

REF: STATE 82438

1. REGARDING SENATOR CRANSTON'S REQUEST ON BEHALF OF MS. GINETTA SAGAN (AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL) WHO WISHES TO VISIT GRIGORIOS FARAKOS NOW IN PRISON AND ASKING EMBASSY TO EXTEND APPROPRIATE COURTESIES INCLUDING POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING VISIT TO FARAKOS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR DEPT. TO PASS FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO SENATOR PRIOR TO SAGAN MID-MAY TRIP TO GREECE.

2. EMBASSY FILES INDICATE GRIGORIOS FARAKOS, BORN 1923, HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN GREEK COMMUNIST MOVEMENT SINCE YOUTH. RECORDS SHOW FARAKOS WAS KKE MEMBER BEFORE 1940, REMAINED ACTIVE COMMUNIST DURING OCCUPATION OF GREECE, FOUGHT IN COMMUNIST GUERRILLA OUTLAWED GROUPS DURING CIVIL WAR, BECAME KKE POLITBURO MEMBER AND EVENTUALLY HEAD OF ILLEGAL KKE NETWORK. IN 1968 HE ENTERED GREECE ILLEGALLY AND WITH 21 OTHERS WAS ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 29, 1968 AND SUBSEQUENTLY SENTENCED IN 1969 UNDER LAW 509 TO 6 YEARS IMPRISONMENT. PRESUMABLY HE IS NOW SERVING THIS SENTENCE ALTHOUGH FARAKOS' FILE INDICATES EARLIER SENTENCE TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. LIFE SENTENCE MAY HAVE BEEN ANNULLED IN AMNESTY MEASURE PRIOR TO APRIL 21, 1967 TAKEOVER, ALTHOUGH EMBASSY RECORDS UNCLEAR ON THIS POINT. IN ANY EVENT FARAKOS IS ONE OF GREECE'S WELL DOCUMENTED COMMUNIST ACTIVITISTS WHOSE
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RECORD ALSO INCLUDES PETTY CRIME OFFENSES AND PREDATES MILITARY

REGIME OF APRIL 21 AND NOVEMBER 25. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON WHERE FARAKOS IS HELD NOW.

3. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, GOG IN PAST HAS NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE TO US OR OTHER OUTSIDE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP INFORMATION OR ARRANGE VISIT TO POLITICAL PRISONERS, PARTICULARLY WHEN SUBJECT IS GREEK NATIONAL. GIVEN FARAKOS' COMMUNIST RECORD AND PROSPECTIVE NEGATIVE GREEK REACTION, PARTICULARLY IN CASE OF SUCH CHARACTER, WE DO NOT SEE ANY BASIS ON WHICH EMBASSY COULD ASSIST SENATOR'S CONSTITUENT IN REQUEST TO VISIT FARAKOS. EMBASSY OF COURSE REMAINS READY OFFER APPROPRIATE COURTESIES TO MS. SAGAN AND TO MEET HER SHOULD SHE DESIRE.
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